

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 7, please delete paragraph [0019] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0019] FIG. 1 depicts an exemplary (allosteric probe) including an allosteric regulator and a regulated aptamer (SEQ ID NO: 1).

Page 14, please delete paragraph [0039] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0039] FIG. 2 shows the regulation of an exemplary allosteric probe (SEQ ID NO: 2) comprising a neomycin aptamer (allosteric regulator) linked to an ATP aptamer (regulated aptamer). As shown in FIG.2, the activity of the ATP aptamer, as measured by its ability to bind ATP, is enhanced approximately 3-fold in the presence of neomycin. Thus, the binding of the neomycin aptamer to neomycin regulates the binding of the ATP aptamer to ATP. This exemplary (RNA allosteric probe) has the following sequence:

gcuuaauacgacucacuauaggccugggcgagaaguuuaggccuuggguugggaagaaacuguggca
cuucggugccagcaaccc